Agenda Item: 12-22 Request Approval of the Proposed Reclassification of the Roanoke River in Bertie and Martin Counties (Roanoke River Basin) to Class WS-IV

Explanation:

Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA) has requested that a portion of the Roanoke River be reclassified to allow its use as a water supply. The subject portion of the Roanoke River is to be reclassified to WS-IV with a CA and WS-IV with a Protected Area (PA). The resulting water supply will allow Martin County and the Town of Williamston to meet requirements of the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA) rule and projected water demands through 2030.

Division of Water Resources staff concurs with the proposal. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) has been issued for this project. Finally, the waters to be reclassified meet water supply standards according to 2011 DWQ studies.

In January 2012 and March 2012, the Water Quality Committee and the Commission, respectively, approved the request to proceed with rule-making for the proposed reclassification. A public hearing was held in June 2012 in Williamston, NC. The Report of Proceedings sent to the members of the EMC includes all written comments received and further details on this proposed reclassification.

Recommendation:

The Hearing Officer recommends that the proposed reclassification be approved by the Commission. If reclassified as proposed, the effective date for this reclassification will be January 1, 2013.